



# Maps and GIS Resources

Census and Economic Information Center  
Montana Department of Commerce

## American FactFinder

A door into Census data.

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

In American FactFinder you can obtain data in the form of maps, tables, and reports from a variety of Census Bureau sources.

**New users** will find data and maps on the most popular topics for their area by clicking on the following buttons from the Main Page:

- [Fact Sheet](#) for quick access to basic demographic, social and economic data on your city, town, county or state or ZIP Code.
- [People](#) to find more popular tables on a variety of topics (age, education, income, race and more) for your area.
- [Housing](#) to find popular tables on home values, ownership, housing characteristics and mortgage.
- [Business and Government](#) for data on housing starts, government finances, foreign trade and more.
- [About the Data](#) to learn more about how the Census Bureau organizes and presents data from many sources.

**Experienced users** will want to use this direct link to choose their data set from all the data sets available in American FactFinder:

- [Data Sets](#) - access to all data sets, tables, and maps available in American FactFinder
- [Maps](#) - access to Reference and Thematic Maps with tips on creating, using, downloading and printing maps in AFF
- [Reference Shelf](#) - resources, related sites and reports
- [Tools](#) - links to data manipulation tools
- [Search box](#) - here you can enter a keyword to find data, or enter the name of a geographic area, or click on 'enter a street address' to find data for your area.

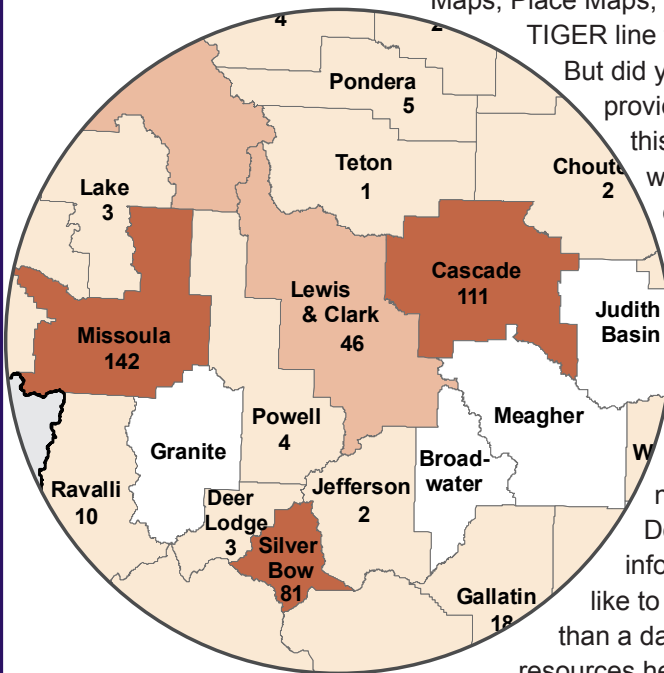
Text from U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder website.



A Geographic Information System (GIS) consists of the hardware, software, and techniques that allow data with a spatial component to be stored, analyzed, and displayed. At the Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC), we use GIS to make maps. The CEIC website has many thematic maps for Montana, to be viewed or downloaded, covering topics such as population change, population density, housing characteristics, poverty, economics, education, and more ([http://ceic.mt.gov/data\\_maps.asp](http://ceic.mt.gov/data_maps.asp)). We also have links to Census Tract and Block maps, Census County Divisions

Maps, Place Maps, Tribal Block Maps, and TIGER line files - to name a few.

But did you know that we also provide custom maps? In this sample map to the left, we see work locations by county for 2003-2005 health care graduates of the Montana state university system. Thematic maps such as this, present a "picture" of the data that no table of numbers can provide. Do you have some information you would like to see in a context other than a data table? Let our GIS resources help you see the data more clearly.



## Here are additional internet resources to help with your mapping and GIS needs:

- CEIC Data Maps & GIS - [http://ceic.mt.gov/data\\_maps.asp](http://ceic.mt.gov/data_maps.asp)
- CEIC Tract Maps - [http://ceic.mt.gov/ctract\\_maps/ctract\\_ctyblockmaps.asp](http://ceic.mt.gov/ctract_maps/ctract_ctyblockmaps.asp)
- Census Bureau's Geography Page - <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/index.html>
- Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals - <http://www.magip.org>
- Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)/GIS Data - <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdata/lib/gisDataList.aspx>
- NRIS Interactive Mapping - <http://maps2.nris.state.mt.us/mapper>
- NRIS Static Montana Maps - <http://nris.mt.gov/gis/gisdata/lib/mtmaps.aspx>